

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 3710
August 9, 2005

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
STONELY, Todd – Division of Water Resources
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks and Recreation
REICHERT, Michael – DEQ/Division of Water Quality
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
BIRKES, William – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
CHRISTY, Kim – School & Institutional Trust Lands
GRIERSON, David – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
GUNNELL, Roy – Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Others Present:

FROST, Kim – Public Lands Policy
WRIGHT, Carolyn – Public Lands Policy
LANDURETH, Brenda – DNR
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
COTTAM, Brian – GOPB (speaker phone)
BOHN, Laura – GOPB

Kim Frost called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes/Announcements

Pam Grubaugh-Littig made a motion to approve the July 12, 2005 minutes. Karl Kappe seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with a few minor changes from Kimm Harty.

This is Karl Kappe's last RDCC meeting. Karl has served approximately 17 years on this committee. His retirement party will be held on Friday, August 26, 2005, from 1:00- 3:00 p.m., in the Department of Natural Resources Auditorium.

II. Special Presentations/Discussions

Laura Bohn, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Critical Lands Planning Toolkit for the State of Utah

Critical lands are defined in the toolkit as the lands, which are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of Utah and its residents. These lands provide clean air, clean water, and food. Critical lands are important areas economically since they often are recreation areas that generate tourism dollars and tax revenues from natural resources. Critical lands play a vital role in defining the character of a community and enhancing quality of life. Critical land planning protects residents from potential floods, landslides and other natural hazards. Development impacts on water quality and recreation resources is reduced by planning.

Critical lands planning is important since Utah's population is growing rapidly. Limited space for development and mountains, lakes, wetlands and deserts constrain potential suitable sites for development. Development is occurring on steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, farmland and wildlife habitat and other critical lands of importance. Proactive measures are needed to conserve critical lands while accommodating future growth. Quality growth requires critical land protection. Many communities lack the funds and resources for planning.

The Critical Lands Toolkit database provides an online mapping tool, inventory of critical lands and statewide data. Critical land areas are rated and described by the value or need for protection. A geologic hazard GIS data layer is new information. The committee asked about landslide hazards, CERCLA sites, groundwater plumes and dam failure zones. Additional information to include in the database is welcomed.

Access to Geographic Information System software is not required. Statewide infrastructure information is available.

III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL), introduced Dave Grierson, Ecosystem Management Coordinator, Lands and Planning, who will represent the division after his retirement. Karl Kappe reported that the legislature appropriated funding for weed control along the Green and the Colorado Rivers in the Moab area and in the Bear Lake area.

Susan Zarekarizi, State Parks and Recreation, will be replacing Terry Green when he retires. She reported that the division has requested an expedited review for the sale of property along the Jordan River near the South Valley Sewer District.

Michael Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources, reported that the division is working on a nonnative removal project to restore Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in Juab County.

Kim Christy, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), reported that agencies are accessing ten cents per acre for treatment of weeds and pesticides. SITLA would be interested in joining with the DFFSL to treat adjacent lands with pesticides and herbicides.

Brian Cottam, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, is continuing to work with cities and counties. Funding is still available for planning assistance for local governments interested in using the critical lands and county planning toolkits.

Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, announced that Coal Hollow Surface Mine in Kane County was open from 1980s to 1990s. The coal company will be permitting the fee coal initially. They to try to acquire the federal coal leases but

this will require an Environmental Impact Statement from the Kanab Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office.

There is interest in uranium mining east of Lisbon Valley. They will be drilling 30 holes.

The Summo Copper Mine is currently under construction and should be in production by the end of the year.

Kimm Harty, Utah Geological Survey, announced that the division will be releasing a new uranium and vanadium map. This is a GIS based product and will be available on CD soon.

Matthew Higdon, BLM contractual problems are delaying Price and Richfield planning efforts. SWCA (contractor) is analyzing comments received on the Vernal RMP. BLM is expecting the mineral report the end of August for the Kanab RMP. The National Energy Bill signed in early August has significant implications for BLM specifically for the Vernal BLM Office. The bill will initiate an accelerated review process for oil, gas and shale permits.

Kim Frost, Public Lands Policy Group, reported that the comment period for the Nevada groundwater project has been extended.

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) project Environmental Impact Statement has been put on hold. The Nevada State Office will be establishing a joint office to run this 5-6 year process. Utah submitted scoping comments and identified gaps in data. The comment period has been extended until August 1, 2005. The Division of Water Rights commented on the lack of hydrologic data (aquifer). There are some sensitive species and wilderness/habitat issues. Bathymetric data will also be necessary. Meetings will be held in Carson City, Nevada.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights, stated that each owner of a request for information online will only be able to use one mailing address. The division will be limiting the number of notices to a particular address.

Kim Frost, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, announced that she will be taking another position in India. Kimm Harty will be the new chair of the committee.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

A handout of the current status of the RDCC Project Management System was provided to the committee.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:55 a.m. The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 3710.